

SENATE RESOLUTION 15
By Wilder

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Durell Roberts, Assistant
Commissioner of Tourist Development.

WHEREAS, it was with deep regret that the members of the Tennessee General
Assembly and the citizens of our state learned of the death of Durell Roberts, Assistant
Commissioner of the Department of Tourist Development; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Roberts graduated from Celina High School, where he grew
up and attended the University of Tennessee and Tennessee Tech; and

WHEREAS, he worked for the Department of Tourist Development for more than 30
years with extraordinary expertise, diligence and dedication. He began his distinguished service
with the department in 1964 taking a very informative traveling mobile exhibit on Tennessee
across the nation, a well done exhibit which did an excellent job in promoting Tennessee
tourism; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Roberts served in many capacities with the department as it
evolved into a cabinet-level department and had served admirably as assistant commissioner
since 1993. In each position he held, he was widely praised for his solid record of
accomplishment; and

WHEREAS, most recently, Assistant Commissioner Durell Roberts had the important
job of directing the state's 13 welcoming centers with a staff of 124 employees. The tremendous
success of this program made our state a model which other states sought to emulate; and

94891474

94891474

003129

00312926

WHEREAS, his role as a career state employee and his direction of the welcome centers insured continuity and expertise in the management of the centers throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Durell Roberts was honored numerous times for his admirable record of accomplishment, a record that ultimately meant many more jobs for Tennessee and greater prosperity for our state; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Roberts received an award of appreciation for “generous contributions and support to the Northeast Tennessee Tourism Region” in 1994, the American and Canadian Sport Travel & Outdoor Show presented him with an award for “Most Attractive Multiple Booth Exhibit in Vacation/Travel Category” also in 1994, and in 1995 he received the prestigious International Association of Travel Exhibitors (IATE) “Tourism Professional of the Year” award; and

WHEREAS, John Wade, Commissioner of Tourist Development, paid tribute to Durell Roberts by stating: “Durell Roberts and I have been close friends for over 14 years. I always considered him more of a friend than an employee. He was a conscientious, hard worker, who ran one of the best welcome center programs in the United States. I will remember Durell for his common sense approach to all situations, but I will remember him most for his loyalty to me, his family and co-workers. I will miss him as long as I live.”; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Roberts was a loving father to daughter Kim Roberts, brother to sisters Maxine Roberts and Betty Faye Lewis, and to his brother Ralph Roberts; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause to honor the memory of Durell Roberts and reflect on his exemplary life of public service; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Assistant Commissioner Durell Roberts and express our deepest condolences to his family and friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copies.